

Bangkok Noi: Land of Water and Fire

Bangkok Noi: Land of Water and Fire is a documentary film which is the outcome of 'Revitalizing Bangkok Noi Using Integrated Media' research project funded by CSR unit of Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, Thailand. The documentary is aimed to revitalize the disappearing Bangkok Noi community through making the local members confront their ongoing problems, embracing them and then creating pride and hope for the communal members in the film where there is always a solution. The children of the community are at the end the hope and dream that the community is longing for. To make this documentary to be the authentic story of the Bangkok Noi people, the team thus used the ethnographical film-making approach where the extensive first-hand interview is conducted with all communal stakeholders i.e. the local temple abbots and monks, the communal leader from the government, the local leader from the community, the local history experts, the school principal, school teachers, local artists, traditional medicine makers and shop owners, villagers, school students both from the primary and secondary levels etc. Then, retell the story and filmed. The narrative starts from telling stories of the old civilized and traditional ways of life of the Bangkok Noi area, then moves on the the contemporary lives where are people are living with the water source i.e Chao Praya river and Bangkok Noi Canal; and the fire source stemmed from the Ban Bu Bowl makers and factory. Then the problems are introduced and at the end the climax is when while the audiences are being torn apart and hopeless, the plot is twisted when the primary school students are presented with their sincere monologue

of how they want the community to shine on and they will be the one creating it. Once the whole documentary is done, the team had screened to Bangkok Noi communal members and the result is 86% of the audience who are the local members do have better communal bonding to their community, possess more strength and happiness and want to revitalize their community.